

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, as the Australian Prime Minister very well described a week ago last Monday:

A new chapter in the relationship between Australia, the United States, and the United Kingdom is about to begin; a friendship built on our shared values, our commitment to democracy, and our common vision for a peaceful and prosperous future.

Mr. Speaker, that is a vision worth pursuing, and that is why I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1093 is an important bipartisan measure which requires the State Department to report to Congress on its efforts toward implementation of the advanced capabilities pillar of AUKUS and improvements necessary in partner country regulations to enable secure and successful implementation.

As we look to build on and implement our shared security partnerships with Australia and the United Kingdom encapsulated within the AUKUS framework, I am proud to co-lead this bipartisan framework with Chairman McCAUL.

In this strategic competition, the most important of our era, sharing our defense technologies and capabilities in a safe, secure, and regulated manner will only make us all stronger and more united.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that all of my colleagues will join me in support of this very important bipartisan bill. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Mr. Speaker, with AUKUS, we seek peace through strength. The previous administration laid the groundwork to collaborate with our closest allies and partners in countering China's threat to peace. Our Nation stood alongside Australia and U.K. for the launch of the AUKUS trilateral partnership in September of 2021. Now, we are prepared to best implement this important program.

Through AUKUS, we are declaring that we will not stand idly by for Chairman Xi and other autocratic leaders to dictate when and under what circumstances the strength of our resilience is to be tested.

This bipartisan measure is a commitment to our partners. The American people stand with the U.K. and Australia in preserving freedom. Together we will uphold the international rules-based order and protect and preserve the right of sovereign nations to defend themselves.

In the Indo-Pacific, we have seen how one dictator, Chairman Xi, is defying the free world and threatening the open navigation and the free flow of trade. This week, Xi met with Putin in Moscow and afterwards possibly Iran.

Chairman Xi chooses to closely partner with Russia, who launched an

unprovoked war of aggression with Ukraine, where they are committing barbaric war crimes, as I just returned from Kyiv and Bucha, where I saw the mass graves.

Mr. Putin also has a long track record of war crimes in Mali, Syria, and Central African Republic.

Xi also chooses to associate with Iran, whose Revolutionary Guard Corps is a designated foreign terrorist organization. These alliances are a clear indication that Xi does not seek peace but chooses to work with those who wish to destroy it.

Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to speak in a unified voice, as we do so often on the Foreign Affairs Committee, with my dear friend Mr. MEEKS, in support of this great AUKUS partnership. Again, this measure deserves our unanimous support.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1715

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. McCAUL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1093.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

PERIODIC REVIEWS AND UPDATED REPORTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE'S TAIWAN GUIDELINES UNDER THE TAIWAN ASSURANCE ACT OF 2020

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1159) to amend the Taiwan Assurance Act of 2020 to require periodic reviews and updated reports relating to the Department of State's Taiwan Guidelines.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1159

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. PERIODIC REVIEWS AND UPDATED REPORTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE'S TAIWAN GUIDELINES UNDER THE TAIWAN ASSURANCE ACT OF 2020.

Section 315 of the Taiwan Assurance Act of 2020 (Public Law 116-260; 134 Stat. 3100) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)(1), by adding at the end before “; and” the following: “and any successor document or related document disseminating such guidance”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(d) PERIODIC REVIEWS AND UPDATED REPORTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—For as long as the Department of State's guidance that governs relations with Taiwan described in sub-

section (a) remains in effect, the Secretary of State shall conduct periodic reviews as described in subsection (a) and submit updated reports as described in subsection (c) not less frequently than every two years following the submission of the initial report described in subsection (c).

“(2) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—Such updated reports shall include—

“(A) a description of how the guidance meets the goals and objectives described in paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) of subsection (b); and

“(B) an identification of opportunities and plans to lift self-imposed restrictions on relations with Taiwan.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Missouri?

There was no objection.

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Taiwan assurance implementation act, my bipartisan legislation to ensure the United States engages Taiwan in a way that deepens our relationship with this important partner.

Taiwan faces an unprecedented threat from an increasingly capable and erratic People's Republic of China. Xi Jinping has said that so-called reunification with Taiwan is a core goal of his great rejuvenation campaign, and Chinese Communist Party officials have made clear that they are not afraid to use force to achieve this goal.

Mr. Speaker, our own intelligence community has assessed that the PRC is investing in military capabilities that will enable it to take Taiwan by 2027, but we do not need intelligence to tell us what we already see. The PRC is flying bombers and fighter jets into Taiwanese airspace and waters, threatening to sanction Taiwanese businesses, and harassing Taiwanese Government officials.

If we are to defeat China's plan to replace the United States as the world's preeminent power, we cannot be ruled by fear. That means boldly standing by our friends and partners, particularly Taiwan.

We must increase our economic ties, defense relationship, and political support of Taiwan's democratic system. Unfortunately, our own State Department has often unilaterally censored or restricted its engagement with Taiwan.

Hiding behind opacity and red tape hurts our partnership with Taiwan at a moment when we need to be standing shoulder to shoulder with our allies and partners. Any waffling invites bullies like Xi and Putin to push the envelope.

This is why the Taiwan Assurance Act, or TAA, was enacted with strong bipartisan support in 2020, but the threat Taiwan faces has only grown since then. This bill amends the TAA to ensure that the State Department's policy of engagement with Taiwan is appropriate to today's geopolitical challenges. We must acknowledge the growing threat Taiwan faces and help build resilience to that threat.

I was proud to introduce this bipartisan bill along with the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY), who has been an absolute champion for Taiwan for so many years.

It received unanimous support during markup by the Foreign Affairs Committee, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise in strong support of H.R. 1159.

This legislation introduced by Mrs. WAGNER, the vice chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, and Messrs. CONNOLLY and LAWLER, House Foreign Affairs Committee members, showcases this body's steadfast, bipartisan commitment to Taiwan.

As a vibrant democracy and reliable partner of the United States of America, Taiwan has long been a force for good in promoting prosperity and development in the Indo-Pacific and beyond.

Our robust and longstanding friendship is built on our shared values of democracy and good governance, strong people-to-people ties, and ever-expanding commercial and economic engagement.

When I visited Taiwan with Speaker PELOSI last year, the reception we received from the people was nothing short of incredible. We were welcomed with open arms. Thousands of people greeted us as the plane landed. More than that viewed us as our trip took its way to Taiwan.

Our trip demonstrated that Members of Congress will not be dictated to by Beijing and that we will not sit idly by as Beijing attempts to intimidate and coerce our friend.

The people of Taiwan showed us tremendous respect and affection, so much so it was in a way that I believe demonstrates their confidence that the United States Congress will continue to stand up for them.

In acknowledgment of our deep and lasting friendship, the Biden administration took concrete steps to encourage greater engagement with Taiwan. In April 2021, the State Department revised its guidelines to liberalize executive branch interactions with Taiwan counterparts in a way that is consistent with our One China policy and honors our longstanding ties to Taiwan as enshrined in the Taiwan Relations Act.

This legislation amends the Taiwan Assurance Act of 2020 to reauthorize regular reporting on the State Depart-

ment's Taiwan contact guidelines. This bill sends a strong message that Congress stands with our friends in Taiwan, supports greater engagement, and wants to have an active part in strengthening the United States-Taiwan relationship.

As the United States and Taiwan look to further enhance our cooperation, facilitating ways to bolster our ongoing people-to-people ties is vital. Not only have our two sides benefited tremendously from our close engagement, but the world stands to benefit, as well.

Again, I congratulate Representative WAGNER, the vice chair of the committee; Mr. CONNOLLY; and Mr. LAWLER for coming up with this bipartisan bill, and I encourage all of my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY), my friend.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my dear friend, the former chair and now the ranking member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, for his leadership and friendship. I also thank my dear friend from Missouri, Congresswoman WAGNER, who has served America in many roles. I thank her for her leadership on today's legislation, a bipartisan piece of legislation that is very timely and important.

This legislation provides an update to the Taiwan Assurance Act, which I was proud to support in 2020 to underscore the importance of U.S. support for Taiwan.

The key piece of legislation Congress initiated back in 1979 is, as Chairman MEEKS indicated, the Taiwan Relations Act. It was passed when I was a young staffer in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and it originated out of that committee.

It was designed by Congress to help create unique architecture in the bilateral relationship between the United States and Taiwan. It followed immediately after normalization of relations with the People's Republic of China, and it was designed by Congress to make sure that no military solution would be available in the question of the status of Taiwan.

The Taiwan Relations Act was designed to put forth parameters and a roadmap to govern our bilateral relationship. Central to that roadmap is Taiwan's ability to defend itself with support from the United States. That is a promise we made then, and it is a promise we must keep today.

As an increasingly aggressive China threatens its neighbors throughout the South China Sea, as if it were its own private pond, and as it encroaches on territorial waters and airspace and asserts ludicrous claims that the South China Sea is its Chinese pond, this is the time for the United States and this Congress to reassert our support, our

unequivocal support, for the right of the Taiwanese people to decide for themselves how they will manage their affairs and their relationship with Beijing.

As president of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly for the last 2 years, I was proud to partner with my colleagues in this body and on both sides of the aisle to put China on the NATO agenda for the first time in its 70-year history, believe it or not.

This is a crucial moment for the U.S.-Taiwan relationship. It requires a sober and comprehensive understanding of the challenge China can pose to the United States and its security and prosperity, as well as that of the people of Taiwan.

In this moment, our support for Taiwan, its people, and its democratic structure is paramount in the face of Chinese aggression. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Again, I thank my colleague from Missouri and the distinguished former chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee for their leadership.

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time, and I am prepared to close.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1159 is an important bipartisan measure that reauthorizes regular reporting on the State Department's Taiwan contact guidelines to Congress and encourages greater engagement with our friends in Taiwan, consistent with our One China policy.

As a vibrant democracy, a force of good will, and a model for the world, Taiwan is, indeed, a key part of the Indo-Pacific region. It is vital that we find concrete ways to expand and deepen interactions at every level and work together to advance our mutual priorities based on our shared values, strong people-to-people ties, and common vision for the region.

Again, I thank Vice Chair WAGNER, Mr. CONNOLLY, and Mr. LAWLER for coming together with this strong bipartisan bill, and I urge all of my colleagues to join us and support this very important bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, the geopolitical situation surrounding Taiwan is changing rapidly. Our relationship with Taiwan must be flexible enough to meet these new challenges.

Unfortunately, the State Department's classified Taiwan contact guidelines are often not conducive to a robust relationship with Taiwan, and Congress has little insight into the decisionmaking behind these guidelines.

□ 1730

Mr. Speaker, the bottom line of this legislation is this:

H.R. 1159 would reauthorize the bipartisan Taiwan Assurance Act of 2020, strengthen its reporting requirements, and require greater transparency from the State Department.

It would ensure the United States is approaching its relationship with Taiwan in a manner that strengthens our

relationships with democratic partners who are under threat by aggressive dictatorships, and it would ask the administration to identify opportunities to lift remaining self-imposed restrictions on engagement.

Mr. Speaker, I urge each of my colleagues to support this important bipartisan bill. I thank the ranking member, Mr. MEEKS, and I thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) for joining me in supporting this unanimously out of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1159.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

PROVIDING APPROPRIATE RECOGNITION AND TREATMENT NEEDED TO ENHANCE RELATIONS WITH ASEAN ACT

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 406) to provide for the treatment of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations as an international organization for purposes of the International Organizations Immunities Act, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 406

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Providing Appropriate Recognition and Treatment Needed to Enhance Relations with ASEAN Act” or the “PARTNER with ASEAN Act”.

SEC. 2. EXTENSION TO THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS.

The provisions of the International Organizations Immunities Act (22 U.S.C. 288 et seq.) may be extended to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in the same manner, to the same extent, and subject to the same conditions as such provisions may be extended to a public international organization in which the United States participates pursuant to any treaty or under the authority of any Act of Congress authorizing such participation or making an appropriation for such participation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members

may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Missouri?

There was no objection.

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, or ASEAN, is of immense strategic and economic importance to the United States of America.

This powerhouse region joins the Indian and Pacific Ocean regions and serves as a conduit for global trade. Southeast Asian states are increasingly vital to the prosperity of the U.S. economy, generating hundreds of thousands of American jobs and investing more in our economy than China and India combined.

Home to one of the world's largest and youngest populations and numerous key shipping routes, ASEAN represents the future of growth in the Indo-Pacific. It is an important region that cannot be forgotten and is certainly not forgotten by the People's Republic of China.

The PRC is actively looking for ways to expand their footprint in ASEAN, whether it be through infrastructure projects, predatory lending, or police training. A growing number of Southeast Asian countries no longer believe that China's intentions are benign. Our partners are seeking assurance of U.S. support as they try to maintain economic independence from China and defend their territorial claims in the South China Sea.

To strengthen our relationship with Southeast Asian Governments and counter PRC influence, we must find ways to deepen our relationship with the ASEAN.

The United States has worked closely with ASEAN for more than four decades, and 15 years ago, we became the first nonmember to name an ambassador to ASEAN.

This bill will build on that legacy of cooperation and will enhance ties between the United States and this critical region of the world. It will accord ASEAN representatives in the United States the same diplomatic immunities we provide other regional organizations, such as the EU or the Organization of American States. This is a tangible demonstration of our commitment to that organization.

I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CASTRO). I would also thank my good friend from California, YOUNG KIM, for introducing this important bill. I have the great privilege of being co-chair and cofounder with Mr. CASTRO of the ASEAN Caucus.

I am very sorry that Mr. CASTRO is unable to join us on the floor today but want to convey our prayers and very best wishes for his full and speedy recovery, Mr. Speaker.

This bill received unanimous bipartisan support during committee mark-up and deserves our full support today.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 406, the PARTNER with ASEAN Act, introduced by Mr. CASTRO and Mrs. KIM.

Of course, I join with Mrs. WAGNER in wishing Mr. CASTRO a speedy recovery and return to this body very soon.

This legislation will solidify this body's strong bipartisan commitment to deepening our longstanding cooperation with Southeast Asia and facilitate stronger people-to-people ties with this vast, diverse region.

Southeast Asia is vital to the United States national interests and strategic priorities. The 10 Southeast Asian nations that comprise the important regional body of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, or ASEAN, have an outsized role in shaping crucial political, economic, and security developments in the Indo-Pacific region and beyond.

The United States has long recognized ASEAN's central role in promoting peace, security, and stability in the region. This bill would allow us to deepen our collaboration and partnership on shared challenges.

H.R. 406 underscores the importance of the United States and ASEAN's partnership by authorizing that ASEAN be designated as an international organization with diplomatic privileges and immunities consistent with the International Organizations Immunities Act.

The IOIA, which was enacted in 1945, is how the United States extends the rights and treatment generally accorded to embassies of countries that have diplomatic relations with the United States to international organizations.

This is a long-overdue change that our partners in ASEAN and the Biden administration strongly support. With the passage of this legislation, the United States would affirm our longstanding relationship and upgrade our capacity to collaborate with ASEAN. Robust and consistent engagement with Southeast Asia is critical to realizing our Indo-Pacific strategy. This measure ensures that America remains a Pacific power and a critical player in Southeast Asia as we address the challenge of China.

We need to work collectively with ASEAN so that we can tackle shared challenges such as economic resiliency, global health, climate change, and attacks against the rules-based international order. Our partnership with ASEAN will be essential in delivering sustainable solutions to our combined 1 billion people.

Mr. Speaker, again, I urge all of my colleagues to support this strong, bipartisan bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs.